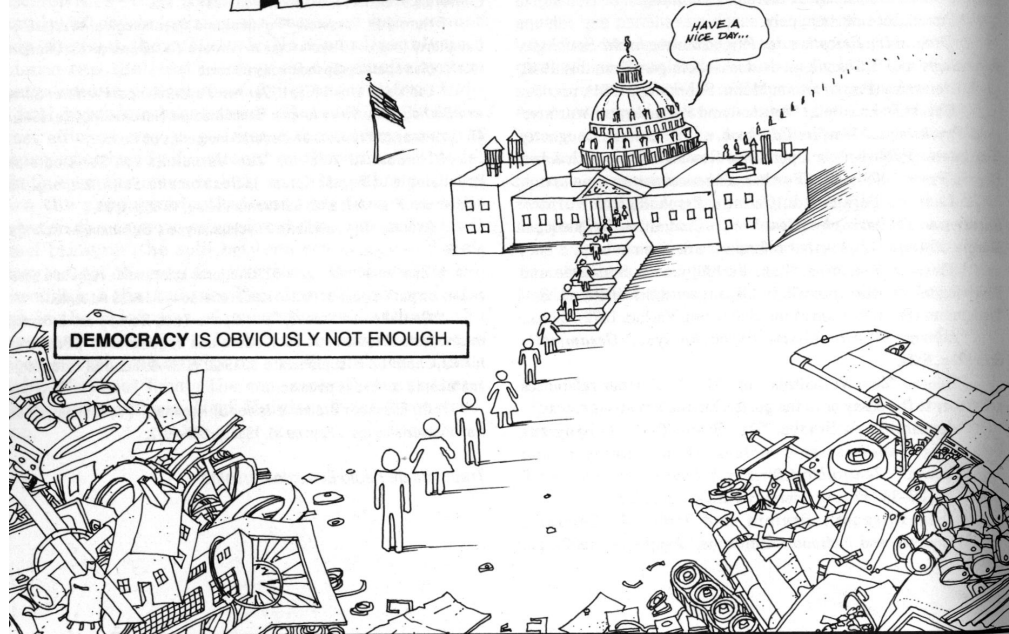


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art:
MARTIM
inker:
AVILLEZ
letterer:
PHIL FELIX



"DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY." AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, WE ARE ALSO ALWAYS COMMANDED TO "HAVE A NICE DAY." UNDER SUCH A TERRIFYINGLY "REASONABLE" STATE, WHICH SUPPOSEDLY WANTS ONLY THE BEST FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US, THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS IS A MORAL IMPERATIVE. AND ABJECTION ITSELF IS MADE ABJECT.



IT'S TIME TO IMAGINE A STATE THAT COULD PROTECT THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF ITS CITIZENS TO THE PURSUIT OF ABJECTION. **UNDER THE STATE OF AFFIRMATIVE ABJECTION**, THE LOGIC OF DOMESTICATION AND ACCUMULATION COULD FINALLY BE SUPPLANTED BY A LOGIC OF **INTENSITY AND SACRIFICE**.



DEATH WOULD FIND A HONORABLE PLACE IN THE SYMBOLIC ORDER; AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, LIFE COULD BE LIVED WITH DIGNITY, RATHER THAN CLUNG TO OUT OF FEAR.

AFFIRMATIVE ABJECTION FOR ALL, UNDER MANY GODS, MULTIFARIOUS AND INFINITELY DIVISIBLE. ONLY UNDER SUCH A REGIME COULD WE BE TRULY FREE AND EQUAL BUT DIFFERENT.

UNDER SUCH A STATE, **FREED** FROM THE IMPERATIVE TO PURSUE HAPPINESS, OUR RELATION TO THE **OTHER** WOULD **NOT** HAVE TO BE REPRESENTED IN THE OPTIMISTIC AND SENTIMENTALIZED TERMS OF ENLIGHTENMENT HUMANISM.
THE RELATION TO THE OTHER COULD **FINALLY** BE ACCURATELY BE REPRESENTED AS CHARACTERIZED BY **AGGRESSION, JEALOUSY, AND FEAR.**

MULTICULTURALISM

TODAY OUR BEST SHOT AT PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE WITH THE OTHER IS A KIND OF MIND-NUMBING MUTUAL IDENTIFICATION.



MUTUAL RECOGNITION TAKES PLACE ONLY AS MUTUAL CANNIBALISM OR MUTUAL INCORPORATION.



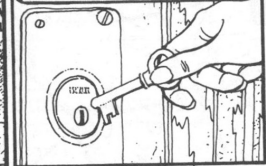
OH I LOVE SO-AND-SO, HE-SHE-IT IS JUST LIKE ME. OH I KNOW JUST HOW YOU FEEL. I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE.



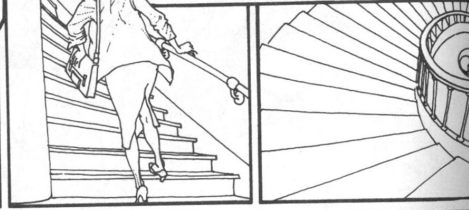
THAT HAPPENED TO ME. I HATE IT WHEN THAT HAPPENS. I'M SO SORRY. I LOVE YOU. YOU WANT WHAT I WANT.



THAT MEANS YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME. DIFFERENCE, ABSOLUTE AND TERRIFYING, SEEMS DEADLY TO THOSE OF US SO ACCUSTOMED...



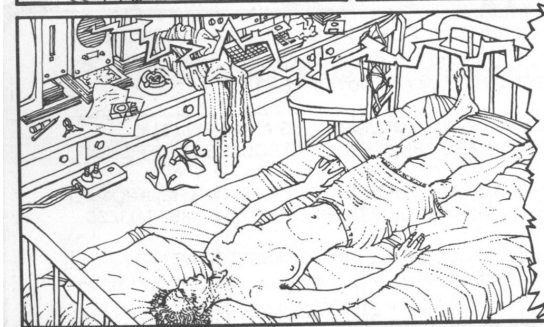
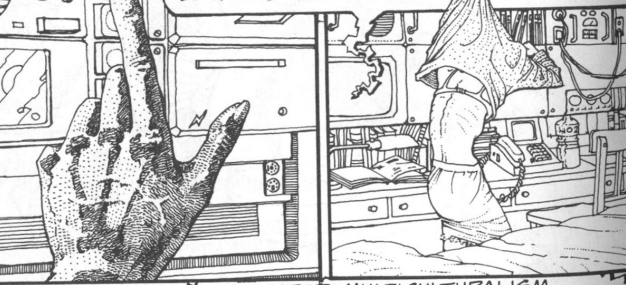
...TO BEING CODDLED BY FRIENDLY SAMENESS AND HOMOGENEITY. DIFFERENCE UNDER THE PRESENT CONDITIONS IS WHOLLY INTOLERABLE.



THE NEW MULTICULTURAL AGENDA IS MERELY A COVERUP FOR FURTHERING SAMENESS UNDER AN OFFICIAL UMBRELLA...



...IN AN IMAGINARY MATERNAL MUSEUM IN WHICH ALL CULTURES WOULD SOMEHOW BECOME DOMESTICATED AND EQUIVALENT, THAT IS EQUALLY LOVABLE TO FUNDERS.



UNDER MULTICULTURALISM, DIFFERENCE IS QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY BUREAUCRATIZED. IN THE ARTS, MULTICULTURALISM IS PROMOTED NOW AT THE EXPENSE OF A NEW CULTURAL SCAPEGOAT--OBSCENITY. WHAT IS CALLED "OBSCENITY" IN ART HAS BECOME THE BLACK SHEEP OF OUR CULTURAL FAMILY, THE UNWANTED, THE CAST OFF, THE ABJECT. WE CAN ALL BE ONE BIG HAPPY MULTI-CULTURAL FAMILY, AS LONG AS NO ONE GETS OBSCENE, IN WHICH CASE, HE OR SHE WILL GET THE BOOT AS WELL.



THIS SYSTEM MERELY GUARANTEES THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE ONE OTHER WHOSE DIFFERENCE IS UNASSIMILABLE AND UNBEARABLE. OUTSIDE THE FIELD OF OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING, HOWEVER, IN THE COMMERCIAL CULTURAL SPHERES, BAD BOYS ACT OUT AGAINST THE OFFICIAL LINES, AGAINST OBSCENITY, AND RECEIVE SYMBOLIC REWARDS IN THE FORMS OF ATTENTION AND MONEY.

LICENSE TO BE BAD STILL SEEMS TO REMAIN RESERVED FOR WHITE MALES.



RAP HAS MADE INROADS IN THIS AREA FOR BLACK MALES--BUT OTHER MINORITIES HAVE TO SCRAMBLE...



...FOR THE FEW PLACES RESERVED FOR THEM IN THE PANTHEON OF THE BAD, MINORITIES TAKE BIGGER RISKS WHEN THEY ACT OUT



ACTING OUT AND BEING BAD IS A PRIVILEGE WHICH CAN NO LONGER BE RESERVED FOR THE WHITE MALE.

THE NEW WORLD ORDER, OR, MORE OF THE SAME

HOW REASSURED WE WERE WHEN **EASTERN EUROPE** AND THE SOVIET UNION COLLAPSED IN ONE YEAR.

OH, THEY ARE JUST LIKE US... THEY WANT WHAT WE WANT.

... THEIR **LACK** IS OUR **LACK** IS OUR **DESIRE** IS THEIR **DESIRE** ...

THE PROBLEM OF **DIFFERENCE** SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF SATISFACTORILY...

THAT IS, IN **OUR FAVOR**...

IN RELATION TO WHAT WAS ONCE THE SOVIET BLOC.

WHAT WE **DESIRE** AND WHAT WE **LACK** IS **AFFIRMED** AND **SUPPORTED** BY THE **OTHER'S** CAPITULATION.

NOW THEY MAY PURSUE **OUR FORMS** OF **HAPPINESS**

FORMS OF **HAPPINESS**...

... ARE ALWAYS **REACTIVE** AND **LIMITED**...

... IN POST-INDUSTRIAL, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY,

... TO FORMS OF **CONSUMPTION** ...

... AND **COMMODITY** **RECOGNITION**, THAT IS, **RECOGNITION** FOR AND BY **COMMODITIES**.

THE **AFFIRMATION** OF THE **OBJECT**, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS **INFINITE** AND **PURE POSITIVITY**.

REACTIVE FORMS DRAW UPON THE **LIMITLESS** **POWER** OF THE **OBJECT**...

... BY **REACTING** AGAINST IT, **DENYING** IT.

THE **REACTIVE FORM** IS **NEVERTHELESS** **POWERFUL** BECAUSE OF ITS **DIRECT ADDRESS** OF THE **OBJECT**. THE **AFFIRMATION** OF **ABJECTION** **PRODUCES** **FORCE** AND **INTENSITY**. **MARX'S** **PRIVILEGING** OF ...

... **POTENTIAL** **AFFIRMATION** OF **ABJECTION** WITH WHICH IT IS SO **INTIMATE**. **OBSCENITY** AND **MELODRAMA** ARE BOTH **COMPONENTS** OF **AFFIRMATIVE** **ABJECTION** IN ...

THE **REPRESENTATIONAL FIELD**. NOT ALL **FORMS** OF **OBSCENITY** OR **MELODRAMA** IN **ART**, HOWEVER, ARE **AFFIRMATIVE**.

REACTIVE **OBSCENITY** IS **OBSESSED** WITH **TABOO** **BREAKING** AND THEREFORE, IN **NEGATING** A **NEGATIVE**, **SUCCEEDS** ONLY IN **AFFIRMING** THE **TABOO** ITSELF.

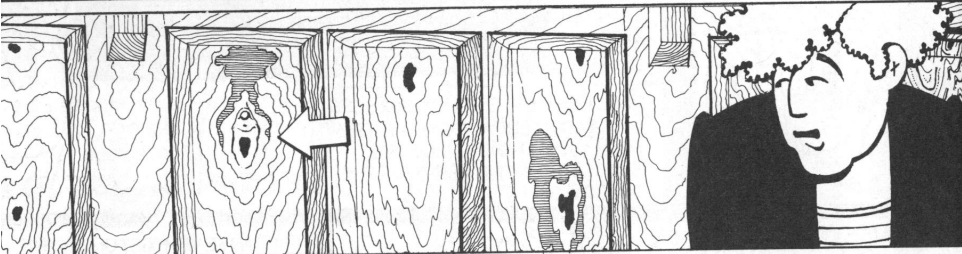
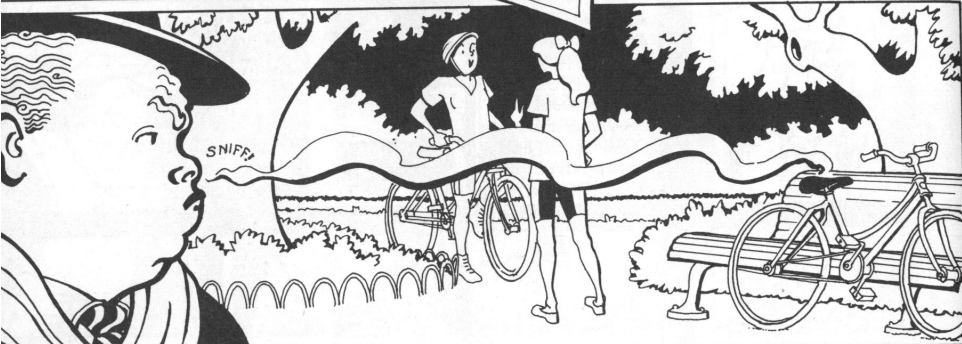
MELODRAMA WHICH DOES NOT **FALL** INTO **MORALIZING** **MARRIES** THE **OBJECT** WITH

THE **SUBLIME**, AS IN THE CASE OF **MEDEA** OR IN **PEDRO** **ALMODOVAR'S** **EARLY FILMS**.

THE **PROLETARIAT** AS THE **MOST POTENT FORCE** OF **HISTORY** HAS TO DO WITH THE **PROLETARIAT'S**...

BECAUSE WE EXIST UNDER THE **TYRANNICAL** AND **OPPRESSIVE** **IDEALS** OF **REASON**, OUR **FORMS** OF **ACTING OUT** AGAINST **AUTHORITY** ARE, OF **COURSE**, **INCREASINGLY** **IDIOSYNCRATIC**, **PRIVATIZED**, **PERVERSE** AND **ECCENTRIC** AND **MEDIATED**.

THESE **CENSORS** ARE, IN FACT, PARTICIPATING IN THE INHERENTLY JOYFUL NATURE OF **AFFIRMATIVE ABJECTION**. THEY ENJOY LOCATING FORMS OF **OBSCENITY**. WHAT IF WE ALL BEGAN TO AVAIL OURSELVES OF THAT KIND OF ENJOYMENT?



GILLES DELEUZE WRITES IN NIETZSCHE AND PHILOSOPHY, "ONLY ACTIVE FORCE ASSERTS ITSELF, IT AFFIRMS ITS DIFFERENCE AND MAKES ITS DIFFERENCE AN OBJECT OF ENJOYMENT AND AFFIRMATION. REACTIVE FORCE, EVEN WHEN IT OBEYS, LIMITS ACTIVE FORCE, IMPOSES LIMITATIONS AND PARTIAL RESTRICTIONS ON IT AND IS ALREADY CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE NEGATIVE."

THE RIGHT WING HAS SUCCESSFULLY
CONSTRUCTED ITSELF AS "OBJECT a"
THAT SPECIAL SUBSTANCE
THAT MAKES AMERICA AMERICA,
AND IN DOING SO, CONSTRUCTED
THE LIBERAL ESTABLISHMENT
AS A BIG OTHER
AGAINST WHICH THE SPECIAL ONES
MUST REBEL, BECAUSE
THE BIG OTHER IS OUT TO
GET THEM.

THIS LIBERAL-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT
WASTES MONEY, AND ONE OF THE WAYS
IT DOES THIS IS BY FUNDING
"OBSCENE" ART

RIGHT WING, ESPECIALLY THE
REME RIGHT WING, DRAWS
HER FROM ITS "OUTSIDER"
ITION



THE LIBERAL RESPONSE TO THE
RIGHT WING'S STRATEGIES IS NO
LONGER SUFFICIENT.
THE LIBERAL BELIEVES IN A
HUMANISTIC, JUSTICE FOR ALL
KIND OF STATE.



THE LIBERAL WILL TRY TO REASON
-- WHEREAS THE RIGHT WING HAS
GONE WAY BEYOND THE BOUNDS
OF REASON.



THE LIBERAL WILL NOT DEAL WITH
AFFIRMATIONS OR NEGATIONS OF
ABJECTION. THE LIBERAL IS
TRAPPED BY A BUREAUCRATIC
RHETORIC...



... OF WHICH
EVERYONE IS
SUSPICIOUS.

THE PARTY FOR AFFIRMATIVE ABJECTION

WHEN WILL THERE BE A PARTY OF AFFIRMATIVE ABJECTION THAT WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND
TACTICS OF THE RIGHT WING BY DIRECTLY ADDRESSING THE ABJECT QUANTITIES OF ENVY
AND RESENTMENT? UNTIL A PARTY OF AFFIRMATIVE ABJECTION COMES TO BE, THE
STATE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF
ITS PEOPLE, EXCEPT IN A FEARFUL AND COWARDLY WAY, SEDUCING AND PACIFYING
THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION BY DEMONIZING AND VILIFYING A MINORITY
— BE THEY ARTISTS, AFRICAN-AMERICANS, INTELLECTUALS, WOMEN,
HISPANO-AMERICANS, ASIAN - AMERICANS, THE POOR,
THE UNEMPLOYED, JEWS, OR HOMOSEXUALS OF EITHER SEX.
UNTIL THIS POLITICAL FORMATION OF AFFIRMATIVE ABJECTION ARISES,
OUR DEMOCRACY WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN THE MAINTENANCE OF
THE TYRANNY OF A SLIGHT AND DEFENSIVE MAJORITY OVER A GROWING
AGGLOMERATION OF RESTLESS MINORITIES. THE STATE OF
AFFAIRS IS UNACCEPTABLE. DEMAND NOTHING LESS
THAN AFFIRMATIVE ABJECTION.

